

It's certainly fitting that just two weeks after our National Holiday of Martin Luther Kings Birthday, we begin a month-long celebration of Black History Month. This celebration started in 1926 as a week- long celebration of Black achievement and history; and has evolved into a month-long celebration of people, culture, music, sports, history, and most importantly to me, a reminder of the continued work we have as citizens to form "a more perfect Union".

My awareness of the importance of Black History Month occurred in the early 1960's, when the struggle for Civil Rights became prominent to all Americans. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and just as importantly, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, are reminders of the challenges we continue to face in our Country.

The people involved in that struggle in the 1960's have helped us learn what strength and perseverance is, what hardship and sacrifice is. We continue to honor all those who have fought for and continue to fight for the rights of all Americans.

I'm particularly excited that the theme for Black History Month 2022 is "Black Health and Wellness". Bradley Beach has embarked on a Wellness Campaign that I hope will improve the lives of all of our citizens.

Thank you.